

1. A method of using dual damascene comprising:  
providing a substrate having an insulator layer  
deposited thereon;

depositing a low dielectric constant material, as  
5 an intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer, over said  
substrate;

depositing a multilayer interface layer over the  
intermetal dielectric layer (IMD) comprised of a bottom  
hard film layer and a top soft film layer;

10 depositing a dielectric anti-reflective coating  
(DARC) over the multilayer interface layer;

patterning and forming dual damascene trench/via  
openings in said intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer,  
along with the exposed dielectric anti-reflective  
15 coating (DARC) and the exposed multilayer interface;

removing the patterning and masking material;

depositing a metal diffusion barrier layer and a  
copper seed layer into the dual damascene trench/via  
openings of the intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer and  
20 over said substrate and over the dielectric  
anti-reflective coating (DARC);

depositing a copper metal layer over said copper  
seed layer, filling the dual damascene trench/via;

polishing off the excess materials, thereby  
25 planarizing the surface to form conductive  
interconnects and contacts to the underlying substrate.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said low dielectric constant material, as an intermetal dielectric layer (IMD) or layers, and in general, the insulating layers, are selected from the group consisting of "Silk C.H.O. (polymer based)", FLARE or low-K polymer, silicon dioxide or silicon oxide, and/or silicon nitride, deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), in the thickness range from approximately 1,000 to 5,000 Angstroms.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein said multilayer interface layer comprised of said bottom hard film layer is selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), in the thickness range from approximately 100 to 500 Angstroms.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein said multilayer interface layer comprised of said top soft film layer is selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low dielectric constant materials, FLARE or polymer in the thickness range from approximately 100 to 500 Angstroms.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein said multilayer interface layer is comprised of a bottom hard film layer and a top soft film layer.

5        6. The method of claim 1, wherein said multilayer interface layer is comprised of a bottom soft film layer and a top hard film layer.

10       7. The method of claim 1, wherein said dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) is selected from the group consisting of silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, and is deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), over said multilayer interface layer, in the thickness range from approximately 300 to 600 Angstroms.

15       8. The method of claim 1, wherein the hard film layer polishing properties, selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, have a slower polishing removal rate  
20       than that of copper.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the soft film layer polishing properties, selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide,  
25       plasma enhanced (PE) TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low

dielectric constant materials, FLARE or polymer, have a faster polishing removal rate than that of copper.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the multilevel  
5 interface layer polishing properties comprised of both a hard layer selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, and a soft layer selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) TEOS,  
10 tetraethylorthosilicate, low dielectric constant materials, FLARE or low-K polymer, act in combination during polishing to form planarized copper.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the trenches or  
15 channels for metal interconnects and via hole contact openings contain a barrier, diffusion barrier liner or diffusion barrier layer, which also aids adhesion, deposited by sputtering (PVD), liner barrier material selected from the group consisting of Ta, TaN and, in a  
20 thickness range from about 100 to 4,000 Angstroms.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the damascene trench or channel interconnects and via hole contacts  
25 can be comprised of a copper seed layer liner, for interconnects and contact vias, deposited by sputtering

(PVD), seed type materials comprising of thin Cu, thickness from about 1,000 to 10,000 Angstroms.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said copper  
5 metal layer is selected from the group consisting of Cu, AlCu alloys and AlCuSi alloys.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the damascene  
openings is filled with a layer of copper, inlaid  
10 conducting material layer, forming conducting interconnect lines and contact vias for interconnects and contact vias, and is comprised of copper deposited by an electrochemical deposition (ECD), the Cu approximate thickness from 4,000 to 10,000 Angstroms.

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15. The method of claim 1, wherein damascene and dual damascene patterned openings, for subsequent inlaid metal, are formed by the following methods, selected from the group consisting of reactive ion etching (RIE),  
20 milling, ion milling, wet etching, or a combination thereof.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the levels of conducting metal copper layers are planarized by  
25 removing excess conducting material to form inlaid dual damascene conducting metal interconnects, in trench and

via openings, and this process includes planarization by the following methods, selected from the group consisting of planarization by chemical mechanical polish (CMP), milling, ion milling, and/or etching, or a  
5 combination thereof.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the final processing steps is the forming by damascene and chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) the inlaid copper  
10 metal layer, by removing the excess copper metal layers, the excess barrier layer, and the multilevel interface layer including the dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC), thus planarizing the surface by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP), forming smooth surface  
15 inlaid copper, which remains in the open regions.

18. A method of using dual damascene technique to a conductive interconnect wiring and contact via to a semiconductor diffusion in the fabrication of MOSFET  
20 devices comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate having a semiconductor diffusion region therein;

depositing a low dielectric constant material, as an intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer, over said  
25 semiconductor substrate and the semiconductor diffusion region;

depositing a multilayer interface layer over the intermetal dielectric layer (IMD) comprised of a bottom hard film layer and a top soft film layer;

depositing a dielectric anti-reflective coating  
5 (DARC) over the multilayer interface layer;

patterning and etching dual damascene trench/via openings in said intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer, along with the exposed dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) and the exposed multilayer interface  
10 layer;

removing the patterning and masking material;

depositing a metal diffusion barrier layer and a copper seed layer into the dual damascene trench/via openings of the intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer and  
15 over said semiconductor diffusion region and over the dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC);

depositing a copper metal layer by electrochemical deposition (ECD) over said copper seed layer, filling the dual damascene trench/via openings;

20 polishing off the excess copper metal, the dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) layer, the multilayer interface layer, the excess copper seed layer and the excess barrier layer outside of the thrench/via openings, thereby planarizing the surface to form a  
25 conductive interconnect wiring and contact via to the underlying semiconductor diffusion region.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said contact is made to a semiconductor diffusion region on a semiconductor substrate.

5        20. The method of claim 18, wherein the dual damascene process is compatible with MOSFET CMOS processing, devices and circuits, for both logic and memory applications.

10        21. The method of claim 18, wherein said low dielectric constant material, as an intermetal dielectric layer (IMD) or layers, and in general, the insulating layers, are selected from the group consisting of "Silk C.H.O. (polymer based)", FLARE or  
15        polymer, silicon dioxide or silicon oxide, and/or silicon nitride, deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), in the thickness range from approximately 1,000 to 5,000 Angstroms.

20        22. The method of claim 18, wherein said multilayer interface layer comprised of said bottom hard film layer is selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), in the  
25        thickness range from approximately 100 to 500 Angstroms.



23. The method of claim 18, wherein said  
multilayer interface layer comprised of said top soft  
film layer is selected from the group consisting of  
silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide, plasma  
5 enhanced (PE) TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low  
dielectric constant polymer materials, in the thickness  
range from approximately 100 to 500 Angstroms.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein said  
10 multilayer interface layer is comprised of a bottom hard  
film layer and a top soft film layer.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein said  
multilayer interface layer is comprised of a bottom soft  
15 film layer and a top hard film layer.

26. The method of claim 18, wherein said  
dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) is selected  
from the group consisting of silicon oxynitride, and is  
20 deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), over said  
multilayer interface layer, in the thickness range from  
approximately 300 to 600 Angstroms.

27. The method of claim 18, wherein the hard film  
25 layer polishing properties, selected from the group  
consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride,

silicon carbide, have a slower polishing removal rate than that of copper.

28. The method of claim 18, wherein the soft film  
5 layer polishing properties, selected from the group  
consisting of silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide,  
plasma enhanced (PE) TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low  
dielectric constant polymer materials, have a faster  
polishing removal rate than that of copper.

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29. The method of claim 18, wherein the multilevel  
interface layer polishing properties comprised of both a  
hard layer selected from the group consisting of silicon  
nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide and a soft  
15 layer selected from the group consisting of silicon  
oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide, plasma enhanced (PE)  
TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low dielectric constant  
polymer materials, act in combination during polishing  
to form planarized copper.

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30. The method of claim 18, wherein the trenches  
or channels for metal interconnects and via hole contact  
openings contain a barrier, diffusion barrier liner or  
diffusion barrier layer, which also aids adhesion,  
25 deposited by sputtering (PVD), liner barrier material

selected from the group consisting of Ta, TaN and, in a thickness range from about 100 to 4,000 Angstroms.

31. The method of claim 18, wherein the damascene trench or channel interconnects and via hole contacts can be comprised of a copper seed layer liner, for interconnects and contact vias, deposited by sputtering (PVD), seed type materials comprising of thin Cu, thickness from about 1,000 to 10,000 Angstroms.

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32. The method of claim 18, wherein the conductor wiring or conducting material consists of the following and is selected from the group consisting of Cu, AlCu alloys, and AlCuSi alloys.

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33. The method of claim 18, wherein said copper metal layer is selected from the group consisting of Cu, AlCu alloys and AlCuSi alloys.

34. The method of claim 18, wherein the damascene openings is filled with a layer of copper, inlaid conducting material layer, forming conducting interconnect lines and contact vias for interconnects and contact vias, and is comprised of copper deposited by an electrochemical deposition (ECD), the Cu approximate thickness from 4,000 to 10,000 Angstroms.

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35. The method of claim 18, wherein damascene and dual damascene patterned openings, for subsequent inlaid metal, are formed by the following methods, selected from the group consisting of reactive ion etching (RIE),  
5 milling, ion milling, wet etching, or a combination thereof.

36. The method of claim 18, wherein the levels of conducting metal copper layers are planarized by  
10 removing excess conducting material to form inlaid dual damascene conducting metal interconnects, in trench and via openings, and this process includes planarization by the following methods, selected from the group consisting of planarization by chemical mechanical  
15 polish (CMP), milling, ion milling, and/or etching, or a combination thereof.

37. The method of claim 18, wherein one of the final processing steps is the forming by damascene and  
20 chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) the inlaid copper metal layer, by removing the excess copper metal layers, the excess barrier layer, and the multilevel interface layer including the dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC), thus planarizing the surface by chemical  
25 mechanical polishing (CMP), forming smooth surface inlaid copper, which remains in the open regions.

38. A method of using dual damascene technique to form a conductive interconnect wiring and contact via to first level conductor wiring comprising:

providing a substrate having a layer of dielectric;

5 providing a first level conductor wiring surrounded by barrier material within the said layer of dielectric;

depositing a low dielectric constant material, as an intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer, over said first level conductor wiring;

10 depositing a multilayer interface layer over the intermetal dielectric layer (IMD) comprised of a bottom hard film layer and a top soft film layer;

depositing a dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) over the multilayer interface layer;

15 patterning and etching dual damascene trench/via openings in said intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer, along with the exposed dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) and the exposed multilayer interface layer;

20 removing the patterning and masking material;

depositing a metal diffusion barrier layer and a copper seed layer into the dual damascene trench/via openings of the intermetal dielectric (IMD) layer and over said first level of conductor wiring and over the dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC);

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depositing a copper metal layer by electrochemical

deposition (ECD) over said copper seed layer, filling the dual damascene trench/via openings;

polishing off the excess copper metal, the dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) layer, the multilayer interface layer, the excess copper seed layer and the excess barrier layer outside of the thrench/via openings, thereby planarizing the surface to form inlaid copper interconnect wiring and contact vias to first level conductor wiring.

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39. The method of claim 38, wherein said substrate is semiconductor substrate or an IC module.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the dual damascene process is compatible with MOSFET CMOS processing, devices and circuits, for both logic and memory applications.

41. The method of claim 38, wherein said low dielectric constant material, as an intermetal dielectric layer (IMD) or layers, and in general, the insulating layers, are selected from the group consisting of "Silk C.H.O. (polymer based)", low-k polymer materials, silicon dioxide or silicon oxide, and/or silicon nitride, deposited by chemical vapor

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deposition (CVD), in the thickness range from approximately 1,000 to 5,000 Angstroms.

42. The method of claim 38, wherein said  
5 multilayer interface layer comprised of said bottom hard film layer is selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), in the thickness range from approximately 100 to 500 Angstroms.

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43. The method of claim 38, wherein said  
multilayer interface layer comprised of said top soft film layer is selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide, plasma  
15 enhanced (PE) TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low dielectric constant polymer materials, in the thickness range from approximately 100 to 500 Angstroms.

44. The method of claim 38, wherein said  
20 multilayer interface layer is comprised of a bottom hard film layer and a top soft film layer.

45. The method of claim 38, wherein said  
multilayer interface layer is comprised of a bottom soft  
25 film layer and a top hard film layer.

46. The method of claim 38, wherein said dielectric anti-reflective coating (DARC) is selected from the group consisting of silicon oxynitride, and is deposited by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), over said  
5 multilayer interface layer, in the thickness range from approximately 300 to 600 Angstroms.

47. The method of claim 38, wherein the hard film layer polishing properties, selected from the group  
10 consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, have a slower polishing removal rate than that of copper.

48. The method of claim 38, wherein the soft film  
15 layer polishing properties, selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low dielectric constant polymer materials, have a faster polishing removal rate than that of copper.

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49. The method of claim 38, wherein the multilevel interface layer polishing properties comprised of both a hard layer selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, and a soft  
25 layer selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, plasma enhanced (PE) oxide, plasma enhanced (PE)



TEOS, tetraethylorthosilicate, low dielectric constant polymer materials, act in combination during polishing to form planarized copper.

5           50. The method of claim 38, wherein the trenches or channels for metal interconnects and via hole contact openings contain a barrier, diffusion barrier liner or diffusion barrier layer, which also aids adhesion, deposited by sputtering (PVD), liner barrier material  
10 selected from the group consisting of Ta, TaN and, in a thickness range from about 100 to 4,000 Angstroms.

          51. The method of claim 38, wherein the damascene trench or channel interconnects and via hole contacts  
15 can be comprised of a copper seed layer liner, for interconnects and contact vias, deposited by sputtering (PVD), seed type materials comprising of thin Cu, thickness from about 1,000 to 10,000 Angstroms.

20           52. The method of claim 38, wherein said first level conductor wiring or conducting material consists of the following and is selected from the group consisting of Cu, AlCu alloys, AlCuSi alloys and W.

53. The method of claim 38, wherein said copper metal layer is selected from the group consisting of Cu, AlCu alloys and AlCuSi alloys.

5        54. The method of claim 38, wherein the damascene openings is filled with a layer of copper, inlaid conducting material layer, forming conducting interconnect lines and contact vias for interconnects and contact vias, and is comprised of copper deposited  
10 by an electrochemical deposition (ECD), the Cu approximate thickness from 4,000 to 10,000 Angstroms.

55. The method of claim 38, wherein damascene and dual damascene patterned openings, for subsequent inlaid  
15 metal, are formed by the following methods, selected from the group consisting of reactive ion etching (RIE), milling, ion milling, wet etching, or a combination thereof.

20        56. The method of claim 38, wherein the levels of conducting metal copper layers are planarized by removing excess conducting material to form inlaid dual damascene conducting metal interconnects, in trench and via openings, and this process includes planarization by  
25 the following methods, selected from the group consisting of planarization by chemical mechanical

polish (CMP), milling, ion milling, and/or etching, or a combination thereof.

57. The method of claim 38, wherein one of the  
5 final processing steps is the forming by damascene and  
chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) the inlaid copper  
metal layer, by removing the excess copper metal layers,  
the excess barrier layer, and the multilevel interface  
layer including the dielectric anti-reflective coating  
10 (DARC), thus planarizing the surface by chemical  
mechanical polishing (CMP), forming smooth surface  
inlaid copper, which remains in the open regions.